

First, this tax cut is spread over 7 years and averages about \$35 billion a year.

This is just 2 percent of Federal spending over that period. Federal spending has risen almost 300 percent over the last 15 years. Do you really think we cannot give just 2 percent back?

Second, some of this tax cut will go to upper income citizens—but most of it will go to lower and middle income people. Somehow, we never hear about that.

Third, DICK ARMEY, our Republican majority leader, has introduced a flat tax proposal that totally excludes from Federal income taxes the first \$26,000 of income for a single person and the first \$38,000 for a married couple.

This would do a whole lot more for poor people than all the political rhetoric coming from those who do not want to cut taxes at all.

The people of this Nation need some of their money back—the bureaucrats have taken too much for far too long.

#### TRUE INTENT OF THE REPUBLICANS' PLANS FOR MEDICARE

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, how can we preserve, protect, and save Medicare, as the Republicans claim to do, by cutting \$270 billion out of Medicare and drastically increasing premium fees and payroll taxes for 37 million elderly Americans? We cannot do it, and that is why Republicans are hiding the details of their Medicare plan and holding no hearings. I ask, can you blame them?

Mr. Speaker, they do not want to talk about it. They are setting up the American people and the Congress for a railroading of their plan in less than 10 days, hoping everyone will forget. They hope that no one will know the true intent of this plan, and that is to give a tax cut for America's wealthiest.

Mr. Speaker, that is not right. Let us be open. Let us see the light of day of this Medicare plan, and let us debate it openly.

Democrats have an alternative, and Democrats want to protect Medicare.

#### THE REPUBLICANS' IGNORANCE-IS-BLISS WAY OF MAKING DECISIONS ON HOUSING PROGRAMS

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services cut \$2.4 billion in banking and housing services for poor and moderate-income Americans. These draconian cuts eliminated the RTC and FDIC affordable housing programs, the FHA Mortgage Assignment Program, the Multifamily Property

Disposition System, and neutralized the Community Redevelopment Agency, among others.

Mr. Speaker, these cuts were not based on facts and insights from expert testimony or those impacted by those decisions. Why? Because not one public hearing was held regarding these programs.

During the bill's markup, Mr. Speaker, Republicans and Democrats asked questions that could not be answered, forcing members to make decisions on communities and their housing needs with little understanding of their impact. With these cuts, Mr. Speaker, far too many will suffer before we all realize the painful consequences of the committee's actions.

It is tragic Republicans have applied the same ignorance-is-bliss in determining key policy issues for America.

#### RAMMING THE MEDICARE PLAN THROUGH CONGRESS REPRESENTS A NEW LOW

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have said before that the new majority is going too far, too fast, and now I add the words, "too low." Yes, the way they are trying to ram their Medicare plan through the Congress represents a new low in backroom attacks on our seniors.

Let us make it clear; The new majority is allowing only 1 day of hearings on their Medicare plan. I repeat 1 day of hearings.

As a former city council member, I can tell you that we had more debate on sidewalk improvements than Speaker GINGRICH will allow on Medicare which affects millions of seniors and their families. But, you know, if I was in the new majority, I'd be hiding their Medicare plan, too, because it increases premiums on seniors and takes away their choice of doctor for one reason, and for one reason only: to pay for one of the most outrageous and unfair tax giveaways in American history.

Mr. Speaker, let us see the full details of your Medicare plan. Let us have public hearings. Let us get it out in the open, because as far as I am concerned, a plan that cannot withstand the bright light of day simply is not good enough for the seniors and families of this country.

#### THE DEMOCRATS' WAY TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IS NON-SENSE

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, it is fascinating to listen to the parade of people from the minority party come before this Congress and tell us why they are in the minority. They are in the minority in large part because they

hate the idea of tax cuts. Giving tax cuts to the middle class is an absolute anathema to them, and so, therefore, they come to the floor day after day and suggest that the idea of giving tax cuts to the middle class is exactly the wrong national policy and we ought to do nothing in terms of a budget that would get us to tax cuts for the middle class, because after all, they know that if we simply give a bigger and bigger Federal Government more money, that that is the way to economic prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, it is nonsense. The American people understand that their entire concept is nonsense.

Now they are talking about Medicare. We have a program to strengthen Medicare in a way to assure that Medicare is there for people in the future. Otherwise in 7 years it goes broke. The Democrats have nothing. They are coming to the floor, and they have nothing. They have offered nothing, they are willing to debate nothing, they have no plan whatsoever. They are willing to countenance bankruptcy.

So understand what their budget policy is. Their budget policy is bankrupt the American family by taxing them to death, and bankrupt the Medicare system so that nobody has medical care in the future.

#### CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). Pursuant to House Resolution 225 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 927.

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#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 927) to seek international sanctions against the Castro government in Cuba, to plan for support of a transition government leading to a democratically elected government in Cuba, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, September 20, 1995, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of H.R. 2347 is considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and is considered read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1995".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows: